



Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Hon. James A.C. Auld
Minister
W.T. Foster
Deputy Minister

Answering Your
Questions About:

Contributed
Publications



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DEPOSITORY LIBRARY MATERIAL

Free Use of Ontario
Provincial Parks
by Senior Citizens

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1 I HAVE HEARD THAT SENIOR CITIZENS ARE ALLOWED FREE ENTRY TO ONTARIO'S PROVINCIAL PARKS. IS THIS CORRECT?

Yes. Free entry for day visits, car-camping and interior camping is granted to residents of Ontario who are 65 years of age or more, upon presentation of one of the following documents:

(a) Ontario Senior Citizen's Privilege Card;

(b) current driver's licence which shows proof of age;

(c) birth certificate or other document which shows proof of age.

2 WHICH PARKS OFFER FREE ENTRY?

All Ontario Provincial Parks.

3 HOW DO YOU DEFINE AN ONTARIO RESIDENT?

An Ontario resident is defined as a person who lives in Ontario for at least seven months of the year.

4 DO U.S. OR SENIOR CITIZENS FROM OTHER PROVINCES QUALIFY FOR FREE ENTRY?

No.

5 I AM 66 BUT MY WIFE IS ONLY 60. ARE WE BOTH ALLOWED FREE ENTRY TO THE PARKS?

Yes.

6 DOES THE SENIOR CITIZEN HAVE TO BE THE DRIVER OF THE VEHICLE?

No.

7 CAN SENIOR CITIZENS OBTAIN A \$20.00 ANNUAL VEHICLE PERMIT FREE OF CHARGE?

Since daily entry is free, these permits are no longer required by senior citizens.

8 CAN SENIOR CITIZENS CAMP IN PROVINCIAL PARKS FREE OF CHARGE?

Yes, where campsites are available.

9 IS THERE AN EXTRA CHARGE FOR CAMPSITES EQUIPPED WITH ELECTRICAL OUTLETS?

No. Electrically-equipped campsites are free of charge where available.

10 IS THERE A LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF DAYS SENIOR CITIZENS CAN CAMP FREE OF CHARGE?

Yes. The normal limit of 23 days in a year in any one park applies. You may move to another park and stay there once your limit for a particular park is reached.

11 ARE INTERIOR CAMPING PERMITS AT ALGONQUIN AND QUETICO FREE TO SENIOR CITIZENS?

Yes.

12 WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE OUR GRANDCHILDREN WITH US ON A CAMPING TRIP. DO THEY QUALIFY FOR FREE ENTRY?

Yes. When senior citizens are accompanied by grandchildren or other persons under the age of 18, free entry for camping applies to the group. However, free entry does not apply where senior citizens are accompanied by persons over the age of 18 - except for spouses and other senior citizens.

13 I AM A SENIOR CITIZEN ENTITLED TO FREE ENTRY AND I AM CAMPED IN A PROVINCIAL PARK. IF MY SON (OVER 18) AND HIS FAMILY WISH TO CAMP OVERNIGHT WITH ME, IS HE ENTITLED TO FREE ENTRY?

No. If he stays with you on your campsite, you no longer qualify for free camping since your son is over the age of 18, and therefore must pay the regular camping fee and register the campsite in his name. You and your vehicle, however, are entitled to remain in the park without paying the normal additional vehicle fee and, as long as the total number of people on the campsite does not exceed six, you can all stay on the same campsite. Alternatively, you may occupy a separate campsite free of charge, if available.

14 IF A SINGLE SENIOR CITIZEN IS ABOARD A BUS REGISTERED UNDER THE PUBLIC VEHICLES ACT, DOES THE BUS QUALIFY FOR FREE ENTRY?

No. Only buses carrying residents of institutions established under The Charitable Institutions Act, The Home for the Aged and Rest Homes Act or The Elderly Persons Centres Act qualify for free entry.

15 I AM 60 YEARS OLD AND HAVE RETIRED EARLY FOR MEDICAL REASONS. DO I QUALIFY FOR FREE ENTRY TO THE PROVINCIAL PARKS?

No. A senior citizen is defined as a person 65 years of age or older.